JAN 0 7 Loud Atty. Dkt. ROC920010064US1

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Bates et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,573

Filed:

May 3, 2001

Confirmation No.: 6829

For:

Systems and Methods for

Operating Vending Machines

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Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner:

Fischer, A.

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## CERTIFICATE OF FAX 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to the number 703/872-9306 to the attention of Examiner Andrew J. Freguer on the date below:

January 7, 2005 Date

Gero G. McClellan

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465, the fee of \$50 for one dependent claim in access of 20 and for any fees, including excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.